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(389)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

ODH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 9th June, 1877.

(POLITICAL.)

GENERAL.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Safir-i-Hindustan* of the 2nd June, in an article headed "The educated natives and high offices," says that the speech delivered by the Viceroy at the Senate Hall of the Calcutta University may have been a source of great delight to natives. His speech is full of sweet and cheering words. What more do we want? His Excellency observes that there are many high offices which natives are quite competent to hold, and to which, therefore, they should be eligible. This promise also like other promises of the kind is calculated to buoy us up with hope. But the question is whether these pledges will ever be made good. There is no difficulty in answering this question as far as natives are concerned. The pleasure of hope is much greater than what we experience on attaining our desires. But there are some natives who will not be satisfied with the mere

Circulation,
220 copies.

pleasure of hope. They want something substantial. For their satisfaction we may state that the time for the promotion of natives to the higher ranks of the service is now near at hand. The former promises of the Government were rather extravagant. It was promised that all men without distinction of creed or colour would be eligible to high offices which they might be competent to hold. This has led some short-sighted natives to think that natives stood on a footing of perfect equality with Englishmen in respect to appointments in the public service. But surely there can possibly be no equality between Englishmen and ourselves. They are the conquerors and we the conquered; they the rulers, and we the ruled; they a fair-coloured people, and we a dark one; they can bluster in parliament, while we have to confine ourselves to expressions of assent at meetings of municipal committees; they have free access to highest officers of the State, while we can not visit an Assistant Magistrate without incurring some expense. But Lord Lytton's scheme is full of promise and hope. He is of opinion that all high offices should be divided into two classes, of which one class should be exclusively reserved for Europeans, and the other should be mostly filled by natives. We cherish a strong belief that His Lordship will carry out his scheme, but there are men who very much doubt this. □

Circulation,
700 copies.

A correspondent of the *Oudh Akhbar* of the 9th June applauds the English Government for its honesty and justice which have won for it the entire confidence of the whole population of India consisting of men of different races and creeds. The people of India never reposed such absolute confidence even in the old Hindu and Muhammadan kings. The native chiefs and nobility most gladly lend money to the Government. Religious toleration forms another prominent feature of the policy of the English Government. The free permission accorded by the Government to the Mussalmans of India to raise subscriptions for the Turkish relief fund is an act that crowns the tolerant policy of the Government.

Russia is fighting for the Christian subjects of the Porte, and Englishmen are also Christians; one of Her Majesty's sons is the son-in-law of the Czar; thousands of Englishmen, among whom Mr. Gladstone stands foremost, are unfavourably disposed towards the Turks; and Sheikhul-Islam at Constantinople and the Ulama of Mecca have proclaimed a jihad against Russia; and the war has assumed the shape of a religious war; but still in the face of all these things the English Government has had the magnanimity to allow its Mussalman subjects to make a public display of their sympathy with the Turks. Since the English Government also defends the religions of its subjects, it really deserves the appellation of the defender of faiths, and not that of the defender of the faith. If Russia ever attempts to invade India (God forbid) all Mussalmans and Hindus will gladly sacrifice their lives and property on behalf of the English Government.

The same paper of the 2nd June says that Lord Lytton, in the course of his valuable and lengthy speech delivered at the last meeting of his council at Calcutta, uttered a very true sentence that we like pure light, and we hate half light and half darkness. This sentence of the Viceroy, looking at the high position which His Excellency occupies, deserves to be treated as the king* of words. It should not be considered in connection with those subjects only which are dealt with by the Viceroy in that speech. It should be regarded in the light of a great maxim of the State applicable to the whole range of the administration of the country. It may be construed in two ways; first, that there should be pure justice and excellent general administration of the country free from all fault and blemish; second, that the light of civilization should be complete and unmarred by blots of barbarism. It need not be confined to British administration in India, but may be extended to the administration of native States. The former may be compared to light, the latter to darkness. In

Circulation,
700 copies.

* Kalam-ul-malik malik-ul-kalam, i.e., a king's word is the king of words.

territories under the immediate rule of the Government of India there are fixed laws for conducting the administration; there is a legislative council for amending the laws from time to time; there are able and experienced officers to administer and enforce them; the newspaper press has full liberty to criticize the acts of the officers of the Government. The case is just the reverse in native States, where ignorance and oppression prevail. There are there no legislative councils, no laws, no able and honest officers. No one listens to the complaints of petitioners. Newspapers are as much feared as an angel of death. Native chiefs are generally the victims of sensuality, or drunkenness, or some other vice. They as well as the Supreme Government are responsible for the prevalence of maladministration in native States. They are notorious for their weaknesses. But the Government of India also has no fixed policy to guide its relations with native States. It adopts no precautionary measures to prevent a native State from being ruined by mismanagement. It is only when the maladministration is complete and the State is on the verge of ruin that the Supreme Government interferes, and even then its interference is defective and faulty. It should exercise through its political agents a strict watch over the administration of native States, and the chiefs should try to improve the administration of their States by taking able men into their service and by enacting good laws.

NATIVE STATES.

Circulation,
220 copies.

The *Safir-i-Hindustan* of the 2nd June bitterly complains of the oppressions practised upon the people by the Raja of Bilaspur, a hill State of the Panjab. The revenue of the State, as estimated by the Government of India, aggregates rupees one lakh a year, but the raja realises more than double the amount. The editor confines his remarks here to ilaqa Basi Bachhrat which is situated in tahsil Hamirpur in the Kangra district. This ilaqa was made over by the Government to the Raja of Bilaspur in 1867 on condition that he would keep up the form of administration initiated there by the Government. The

Government fixed the land revenue at Rs. 8,204, but he exacts Rs. 14,266-8-0. He has deprived the zamindars of all proprietary right in the land. No zamindar can sell, mortgage, or transfer his estate. A man can easily dispossess another of his landed property on the payment of suitable presents to the raja. When a member of the family of the Raja dies, the people for sixteen days are not allowed to work. They have to take only one meal throughout the day and night. Nor can any one celebrate a marriage or other festival during one year. When a man celebrates the marriage of his daughter, he has to pay presents to the raja. If a man dies without leaving a child, one-fourth of the value of his property, moveable and immoveable, is exacted by the raja, and the rest is made over to his relatives. Widows are put to sale by the State and the proceeds go to the public treasury. On the decision of a case by the raja, the party winning the suit has to pay a *shukráná*, and the party losing the suit has to pay a fine. When a creditor obtains a decree against his debtor, the former has to pay half the amount of decree into the State treasury. The editor also mentions some other kinds of extortions made by the raja, and then proceeds to say that some time ago the people, particularly the zamindars, memorialised the Panjab Government setting forth all their grievances. The memorial was forwarded by the Government to the Commissioner of Jalandar for report, and enquiries were made by that officer through the subordinate officers, but there the matter ended. Similar oppressions prevail in almost all hill States. It behoves the Government to liberate the oppressed people of ilaqa Basi Bachhratû from the cruel hands of Raja Hira Chand Bahadur.

C A B U L.

THE *Kôh-i-Nâr* of the 2nd June says that the best thing that the Amir of Cabul can do for the safety and prosperity of his kingdom is to place himself under the protection of the English Government, that has no wish to encroach upon his rights and dominions and has never violated a treaty. But

Circulation,
495 copies.

if he seeks to enter into an alliance with the Russians, he will have in the end to repent for it. Those who are acquainted with past Russian history, and the proceedings of the Russians in Central Asia, can have but one opinion in reference to Russian character for intrigue, dishonesty, and breach of promise. The existence of an old alliance between Turkey and England is a decided argument for the well-meaning intentions and freedom from religious jealousy of the English power. This friendship has not been confined to words only, but has occasionally been put to the test. In the last Crimean war England assisted the Porte with arms and ammunition, and English troops fought side by side with the Turks. The Russians were so completely defeated that they were obliged to remain at peace in Europe till last year. All Mussalmans of Asia are placed under great obligations to England for the aid she rendered to the Porte in the Crimean war. A Turkish envoy has now been sent to Cabul, but the object of his mission is not clearly known. However, looking at the present state of Turkey, we cannot but suppose that he has come to ask for aid. It is of course impossible to conceive that the Amir can assist the Sultan with men or money. But still he may be of use to the Porte in one way. He should commence hostilities against the Russians in Central Asia. Persia, Bukhara, and Yarkand, also should follow the same policy. The Russian military strength which is now wholly directed against Turkish dominions will be diverted, and Russia being involved in financial difficulties will not be able to maintain war on all sides. The Amir should also negotiate for a treaty with the Government of India.

TURKEY.

The *Panjab-i-Akhbar* of the 2nd June says that the Russians before declaring a war upon Turkey tried their best to win Afghanistan over to their side. The Amir was about to become a dupe of Russian intrigue, and the friendship existing between the Government of India and the Amir was on

the brink of coming to a close. He enlisted new troops, and attempted to excite a *jihad*. He even offered the hand of the sister of Sardar Yakub Khan, and the office of minister to Mian Gull, if the latter would help him in stirring up a *jihad*, but the Akhund of Swat would not agree. Seeing this hostile attitude of the Amir, the Government of India wrote a strong despatch to him which has succeeded in bringing him to his senses. He has now reduced the number of his troops, and Russian envoys are not now treated with the same respect and consideration in Cabul that used to be shown them before. Russian intrigue was no less active at the court of the king of Persia. The Russians told him that they contemplated an invasion of Turkey, and that he should take advantage of this opportunity to occupy Baghdad. The temptation agitated his mind for a time, but he soon became convinced of the inadvisability of waging war with Turkey and assured the Sultan through his *chargé d'affaires* at Constantinople of his friendship. For the Muhammadan kingdoms and principalities to remain quiet at this crisis is a great mistake. Persia being the most powerful of them should take the lead. She should assist the Porte, but if this be too much for her she should commence hostilities on her own frontier and try to regain possession of those provinces which the Russians have seized. The other Muhammadan States of Central Asia also should adopt the same policy, and should strive to recover their lost territories and independence.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 9th June reports that Saiyad Wajid Ali, a rais of Oudh, is going to Turkey as a volunteer.

Circulation,
700 copies.

The *Nusrat-ul-Akhbar* of the 1st June quotes the *Delhi Gazette* of the 30th May to the effect that Her Majesty the Queen has issued a royal proclamation, which has been published in an extraordinary number of the *London Gazette*, requiring all her subjects to remain neutral in the Russo-Turkish war, and stating that any one who will evince partiality to either side will incur her grave displeasure. This

Circulation,
100 copies.

news has caused great uneasiness to the Mussalmans of India, and every one of them is anxious to know whether the proclamation applies only to Englishmen, or to natives also. The *Delhi Gazette* after publishing the proclamation makes certain remarks which tend to show that the proclamation is intended for the Mussalmans of India alone. From this we infer that there being no other plausible pretext to chastise them, their collecting of subscriptions for the aid of the Turks is to be taken as a cause of displeasure to the Empress of India. If this supposition is right, we cannot help remarking that it does not become a sovereign like the Empress of India to express her wishes in an ambiguous way with the object of having it always in her power to convict and punish her subjects. Is it not within the power of Her Majesty to prohibit her Mussalman subjects from raising subscriptions for the aid of the Turks, if she wishes to do so? It is likely that some Englishman, knowing how timid natives are, has fabricated the report about the issue of the royal proclamation with a view to frighten the Mussalmans into stopping the collection of subscriptions. And if such a proclamation has really been issued, it will probably not affect the people of India but only Englishmen, because it is said to have been issued in the name of the Queen and not that of the Empress also. Moreover, were the proclamation intended for the Mussalmans of India, it should have been published in Urdu also.

Circulation,
100 copies.

The *Anwar-ul-Akhbar* of the 1st June tries to stir up the religious feelings of the Mussalmans of India by pointing out the danger with which the sanctuaries of their religion are threatened by the Russian invasion. They are by no means justified in sitting quiet as indifferent spectators, since even old women among the Turks have offered their services for the field and adult women have parted with their ornaments to assist the Porte in the defence of Islam. The Mussalmans of India are bound to render pecuniary aid to their brethren

of the faith, who are sacrificing themselves for the safety of Islam.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 7th June calls upon the British army in India, native as well as European, to contribute money for the relief of the Turks after obtaining the permission of the Government. Each soldier may give one month's pay.

Circulation,
700 copies.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

A correspondent of the *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 2nd June complains of the illegal extortions which copyists in the district courts in Amritsar practice on the people who apply for copies of judgments and decisions. Formerly Mr. Brown, Assistant Commissioner, used to see that copies were delivered to applicants on the fixed date, and, in case of failure, fined the amla.

Circulation
212 copies.

The *Almora Akhbar* of the 1st June says that the Municipal Committee of Almora contemplates imposing a house-tax, and this has produced great discontent among the people. The object for which and the rates at which the tax will be levied have not yet transpired. Many men are ready to sell their houses to the Municipal Committee for the prices at which their houses have been estimated by it. If the tax is a permanent one, it is sure to press hard upon the poor, and, therefore, we hope that the Commissioner will pay due consideration to the matter.

Circulation,
77 copies.

The *Vrita Dhara* of the 4th June says that since the rulers of India are bound to act in accordance with the wishes of their countrymen, the latter may do what they please with the utmost temerity and then escape the punishment befitting their criminal acts. Many instances of this nature have already taken place and will continue to occur. Mr. Johnston, an Assistant Magistrate and Collector of Ratnagiri (Bombay Presidency), has recently shot a native by mistake. But he has nothing to fear and is still at large. The case is not yet decided. Were he a native, he would have

Circulation,
175 copies.

been at once taken up by the police. The Magistrate of Ratanagiri has brought the matter to the notice of the Government, and the Government has arrived at the decision that Mr. Johnston is not wholly to blame for the fatal accident, the deceased also should have been more careful. The Government is anxious to know what provision Mr. Johnston intends to make for the support of the family of the deceased, and expresses sorrow for the occurrence. Why does the Government feel sorrow, seeing that the deceased has escaped from the troubles of the world, and was doomed to die in this way? The Government has expressed sorrow as a matter of civility; but were the eyes of the Government dry or wet with tears at the time?

F A M I N E .

The same paper in its columns of summary of news, says that thousands of men have died and are dying of hunger in the famine districts. The press has raised an outcry in this matter, but the Government has not yet made perfect arrangements for the preservation of those who are starving to death. It appears from the *Madras Mail* that in the Salem district men hard pressed by famine sell their children at four rupees a child.

P R E S S .

[The *Akhbār-i-Am* of the 6th June, on the authority of the *Civil and Military Gazette* quotes the *Pioneer* to the effect that last year Maharaja Scindia committed an act which caused great personal sorrow to the Viceroy, but as the act was of a private nature, he abstained from drawing the attention of the Maharaja to it, but anxiously waited for an opportunity to avenge it. During the late Delhi darbar the Viceroy had his desire fulfilled. When the native chiefs and princes came to pay him a visit he gave them the usual reception; but in the case of the Maharaja Scindia, the Viceroy, besides the usual reception, also kissed the Maharaja on the cheeks, and thus wreaked vengeance by contaminating the latter as it were for

life. His wives refuse to go to him, although he has been at some pains and expense to purify himself. He is still looked upon as impure by his equals and followers.

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After quoting the above article the editor remarks that it is difficult to understand why the Anglo-Indian papers delight in bringing the Government into disgrace. The forbearance of the Government is really worthy of praise. The Anglo-Indian Press knows well that its liberty depends upon the pleasure of the Government, still it does not hesitate to bring false charges against and to abuse the Government. Only a short time ago Lord Lytton had to bear a torrent of abuse from the Anglo-Indian Press for his just interference in the Fuller case. At the time of the Indian visit of the Prince of Wales, an Anglo-Indian paper tried to defame him by publishing the report that he had fallen in love with Jampabái. If Anglo-Indian journals continue to indulge in their mean and low habits, to bring the sovereign into ignominy, and to despise and abuse natives, natives will also cease to respect and love their sovereign as much as they do now.]

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Benares Akhbar* of the 7th June complains of the prevalence of theft and robbery at the *panch krosi* fair, Benares. About a fortnight ago some pilgrims were preparing their food at Rameshwar, and a child was playing beside them. A robber came and took the child away to a distance where he killed the child and stripped it of its ornaments. The robber has not yet been traced.

Circulation,
58 copies.

The waters of the Varuna have much subsided, and pilgrims cross it on foot, but still the ferry contractor exacts quarter of an anna from every pilgrim.

A correspondent of the *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 2nd June, says that the Munsif of Amritsar is notoriously in the habit of abusing suitors.

Circulation,
450 copies.

Circulation,
310 copies.

The *Shola'-Tūr*, Cawnpore, of the 5th June, states that as a European who lives in a bungalow by the side of the road that leads to the Ganges in Cawnpore is ill, all natives are prohibited from passing by that road, so that the patient may not be disturbed by noise. But Europeans freely drive and ride along that road. This prohibition causes great inconvenience to natives and is opposed to section 339 of the Indian Penal Code. But of course all laws are applicable to natives alone and not to Europeans. Europeans are enabled to kill natives with perfect impunity. Instances of this kind are often brought to light by the newspaper press.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

(401)

No.	NAME OF PAPER.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.
1	Agra Akhbār	Agra	Urdū	Weekly	June 7th, 1877.
2	Akhbār-i-'Alam	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 2nd "
3	Akhbār-i-Am	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	" 6th "
4	Akmal-ul-Akhbār	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	" 3rd "
5	Aligarh Institute Gazette	Aligarh	Urdū-English	Bi-weekly	" 2nd & 5th "
6	Allahabad Akhbār	Allahabad	Urdū	Daily	" 4th to 8th "
7	Almora Akhbār	Almora	Hindī	Bi-monthly	" 1st "
8	Anjuman-i-Akhbār	Sháhjahánpur	Urdū	Ditto	" 2nd "
9	Anjuman-i-Hind	Lucknow	Ditto	Weekly	" 1st "
10	Anjuman-i-Panjáb	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	" 7th "
11	Anwar-ul-Akhbār	Lucknow	Ditto	Bi-monthly	" 4th "
12	Benares Akhbār	Benares	Hindī	Weekly	" 3rd "
13	Dabdabai Sikandari	Rámpur	Urdū	Ditto	" 1st "
14	Gwalior Gazette	Gwalior	Hindī-Urdū	Ditto	" 4th "
15	Jaipur Akhbār, (Rajputana)	Jaipur	Urdū	Ditto	" 31st "
16	Jalpa-i-Tár	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	June 6th "
17	Karnamah	Lucknow	Ditto	Bi-monthly	" 2nd "
18	Kashi Pátrika	Benares	Hindī	Ditto	" 5th "
19	Kautab-i-Hind	Lucknow	Urdū	Weekly	" 1st "
20	Kavi Vachan Sudha	Benares	Hindī-English	Ditto	" 31st "
21	Khair Khwah-i-Alam	Delhi	Urdū	Ditto	June 6th "
22	Khair Khwah-i-Hind	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	" 2nd "
23	Khair Khwah-i-Oudh	Lucknow	Ditto	Bi-monthly	" 5th "
24	Khair Khwah-i-Panjab	Gujranwala	Ditto	Ditto	" 1st "
25	Kohi-Núr	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	May 31st "
26	Lama-i-Núr	Jaunpur	Ditto	Weekly	June 8th "
				Ditto	" 2nd "
					May 20th & 27th "

List of papers examined. — (concluded.)

NÖ.	NAME OF PAPER,	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY OR OTHERWISE.	DATE.
27	Lauh-i-Mahfuz	Moradabad	Urdü	Weekly	June 1st, 1877.
28	Lawrence Gazette	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 5th "
29	Melwa Akhbär	Indore	Marathi	Ditto	May 30th "
30	Mangal Samachar	Aligarh	Hindi-Urdü	Monthly	April 1st "
31	Marwar Gazette	Jodhpur	Ditto	Weekly	May 28th "
32	Meerut Gazette	Meerut	Urdü	Ditto	" 28th "
33	Mihir-i-Darakhsan	Ditto	Ditto	Tri-monthly	June 1st "
34	Mufid-i-Am	Agra	Ditto	Ditto	" 1st "
35	Mufid-i-Hind	Delhi	Ditto	Weekly	" 2nd "
36	Mukhib-i-Hind	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 5th "
37	Mullai-i-Aur	Cawnpore	Ditto	Ditto	May 30th "
38	Nasir-i-Azan	Moradabad	Ditto	Ditto	June 1st "
39	Naynul Akhbär	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	" 4th "
40	Nizam-ul-Akhbär	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	" 7th "
41	Nur-i-Afsan	Ludhiana	Ditto	Bi-monthly	" 1st "
42	Nur-ul-Ahsar	Allahabad	Ditto	Ditto	" 2nd "
43	Nur-ul-Afaq	Cawnpore	Ditto	Weekly	" 2nd "
44	Nur-ul-Anwar	Ditto	Ditto	Tri-monthly	" 1st "
45	Nusrat-ul-Akhbär	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	" " & 4th to 9th, 1877.
46	Nusrat-ul-Islam	Ditto	Ditto	Daily	June 5th, 1877.
47	Oudh Akhbär	Lucknow	Ditto	Weekly	" 2nd "
48	Oudh Punch	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	" 4th "
49	Panjab-i-Akhbär	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	" 2nd "
50	Patiala Akhbär	Patiala	Ditto	Ditto	" 4th "
51	Prince of Wales' Gazette	Meerut	Hindi-Urdü-English	Ditto	" 2nd "
52	Qaisar-ul-Akhbär	Allahabad	Urdü	Ditto	" "

53	Rahbar-i Hind	...	...	Lahore	...	Ditto	...	Bi-weekly	...	" May	2nd & 5th	"
54	Risalah-i-Am	...	...	Sealkote	...	Ditto	...	Bi-monthly	...	June	31st	"
55	Riz-ul-Akhhār	...	...	Kharaiabad	...	Ditto	...	Tri-monthly	...	"	1st	"
56	Rohilkhand Akhhār	...	...	Moradabad	...	Ditto	...	Weekly	...	"	2nd	"
57	Rozanah Najmul Akhhār	...	...	Meerut	...	Ditto	...	Daily	...	"	3rd & 5th	"
58	Roznamah Janj	...	...	Delhi	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	"	to 8th	"
59	Safir-i-Budhana	...	...	Muzaffarnagar	...	Ditto	...	Weekly	...	May 30th and June 6th, 1877.	4th to 7th	"
60	Safir-i-Hindustan	...	...	Amritsar	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	June 2nd	1877.	"
61	Saiad-ul-Akhhār	...	...	Delhi	...	Hindī-Urdū	...	Tri-monthly	...	"	1st	"
62	Sholai Tūr	...	...	Cawnpore	...	Urdū	...	Weekly	...	"	5th	"
63	Tohfah-i-Kashmir	...	...	Srinagar	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	"	2nd	"
64	Umdat-ul-Akhhār	...	...	Fatehgarh	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	May 30th	"	"
65	Urdū Akhhār	...	...	Akola	...	Marahiti	...	Ditto	...	June 2nd	"	"
66	Urdū Akhhār (Akola)	...	...	Ditto	...	Urdū	...	Ditto	...	"	"	"
67	Vakil-i-Hindustan	...	...	Amritsar	...	Ditto	...	Ditto	...	"	"	"
68	Vrit Dhara	...	...	Dhār	...	Marahiti	...	Ditto	...	"	4th	"

PRIYA DAS,

Off. Govt Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

